

Tudeh News



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May Day, the International Workers Day

Long Live May 1st, the international day of solidarity of working people, and the day to recommit to the eminent ideals of the working class for liberation from the webs of oppression and exploitation!

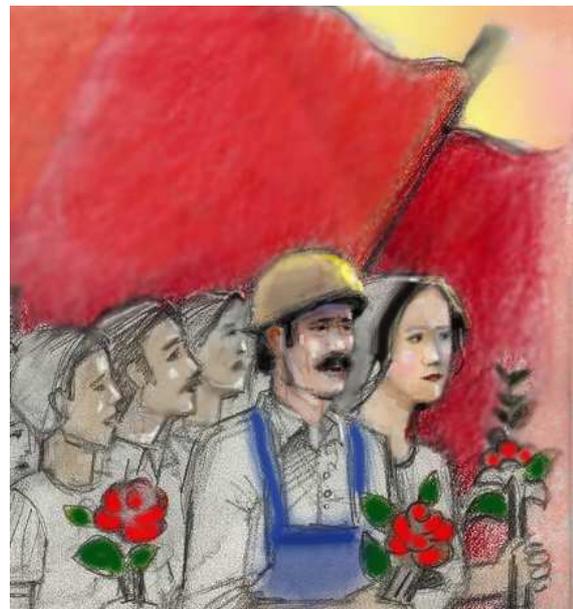
Statement of Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran

(From "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 763, 28th April 2007)

Militant Workers and Toilers,

On the occasion of May 1st, the international Workers' Day, the day of solidarity and to recommit to the eminent ideals of the toilers and workers for liberation from the oppression and exploitation webs, Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran extends its congratulations to you and the dissident and oppressed people of our nation.

Since the onset of the revolt of Chicago textile workers on May 1st 1886, i.e. in all the past 120 years, the workers around the world have celebrated this historic day as an opportunity to evaluate their heroic struggles and to recommit to continue their struggles....



This year, workers of the world celebrate May Day while the freedom and democratic rights of the toilers and working class of the world is being attacked more than ever by the monopolist capital and destructive and antihuman policies of limitless freedom of capital to brutally exploit the oppressed people. Imperialism militarism around the world is targeting the historic achievements of the working people of the world in a threatening

manner. Despite all the vast propaganda of capitalist media about the “end of history” and pointlessness of resistance against the aggression of capitalism, the struggle of the working class and toilers of the world has continued and expanded in spite of all the difficulties. From Venezuela to Nepal, from India to Nicaragua, from South Africa to Vietnam, and also in the developed countries, an innovative and initiative struggle to nullify the plots of the global capitalism and to preserve peace and to establish another world, a world free from exploitation, poverty and war, has continued.

Our country is no exception. Last year the struggle of working people to defend their most basic demands continued and expanded. This struggle is carried in an atmosphere of a deep and wide-ranging crisis that the ruling reactionary regime has imposed on the nation. Provocative propaganda show offs of the regime leaders with the excuse of defending the indisputable right of Iran to produce nuclear energy, along with warmongering and threatening policies of imperialism, is putting peace and the future of the nation’s developments at serious risk. The historic and present interests of the working class of Iran and the toilers of our nation would be achieved only in a firm struggle against these policies of reaction and global imperialism. Victims of war and bloodshed are none but the most oppressed strata of the society. And outcome of War and bloodshed is nothing but aiding imperialism plots to gain political and economical control over the region.

Other elements and consequences of the destructive policies of the Velayat-e Faqih (Supreme Leader) regime are increase in poverty and unemployment, disastrous increase in social deformities, and attack on individual freedoms and historic achievement of the working

class. The labour movement in Iran, which with its long history is one of the most experienced and dissident labour movements in the Middle East region, is pressing forward its struggle for patriotic and class demands under such conditions.

Last year we witnessed the encouraging escalation of the struggle of Iran’s working class, confronting the raid of bloodsucking capitalists to the wages and working conditions of manual and non-manual [white collar] workers. The new wave of escalating and mindful struggle that has been carried out in the recent years in our country, fought against newly-rich capitalists who under the support of the totalitarian government utilize practices like closing down the factories and manufacturing plants, large-scale layoffs, and holding back the payments of workers’ wages for a few months, as their key practice. The regime leaders, closely tied with the most reactionary strata of the country’s capitalism, have shown their intention to change the Labour Law and the principles of the Constitution, in an attempt to leave the hands of the capitalists more open than before to exploit workers, sack the national resources and plunder the industries. One of the main goals of the unprecedented attack of the ruling reaction and the oppressing machine of the regime is to hinder and suppress any attempt by workers to establish independent trade unions and organizations. One of the most obvious and bloody examples of such actions, is the oppression of the Tehran Transit Union through arresting, putting under pressure, firing, and detaining the members and activists of this Union.

Militant Workers and Toilers,

It is obvious that since Ahmadi Nejad took office as the president, and despite his bogus slogans about “compassion”

and establishment of “justice”, the macro policies of the government run and supported by trade sector capitalism and parasite capitalism - grown in the state machine of the regime – are nothing but expediting the past policies of broad privatization, and as a result, “adjustment” of human resources. Consequent to these anti-national devastating policies, numerous job opportunities have been lost, unemployment has become one of the grave problems, and dreadful poverty and privation is threatening millions of Iranian families. For instance, in March 2007 Statistical Center of Iran announced that the rate of unemployment in the country has surpassed 12% [many economy experts, however, estimate the real rate of unemployment to be between 16 to 20%]. It is along the same line of policies that we see that the government, in coordination with employers, has planned a calculated attack against the Social Security Fund, as a result of which, workers are deprived of their legal rights such as unemployment insurance and wages and other employment benefits.

To support the employers and under their influence, and in contradiction to the needs and the reality of the lives of the workers, the government unreasonably sets the minimum wage in favour of employers, and practically inflicts poverty upon the life of millions of toiling families of the country. In addition to all these obvious oppressions, not paying the wages has adjoined those workers who are not unemployed to the large circle of the impoverished. In numerous manufacturing plants, workers have not received payments for a few months. It suffices to mention that even according to the official statistics of the regime’s Ministry of Welfare, 10.5% of 43 million urban population and 11% of the rural population of Iran live below

the line of absolute poverty. The being of this very poor population, along with millions of other Iranians who are living under relative poverty, is a clear indication of this fact that in spite of the ludicrous pretensions of the regime leaders about “supporting the deprived”, a broader spectrum of citizens of our nation have been pushed to poverty and privation.

Employment guarantee according to the Labour Law is one of the other challenges of the workers. Taking advantage of the liberty to lay off the workers and to refrain from paying the wages and benefits of the workers, employers refuse to sign employment contracts, and currently almost all the employment contracts are based on “temporary” work which does not have any guarantee [for long term employment] for workers. Ahmadi Nejad administration, in an attempt to change the Labour Law in favour of employers, had in practice created harsher conditions for the workers. Under the context and excuse of the “unusual conditions of alien threat”, the oppressive machine of the regime has escalated the attack on the freedoms clearly declared in the Labour Law. Raiding the protesting gatherings of teachers and educational workers and arresting the leaders and activists of the Teachers’ Union in the recent months, and previously the brutal attack of the reactionary thugs on the women activists who had gathered to celebrate the International Women’s Day, are prime examples of such actions. The leaders of the regime shamelessly label the conscious and dissident workers as the opponents of the regime and take under brutal attacks. The laws passed by the reactionary parliament and the key policies of the regime with regards to the rights and working conditions of the working people are in clear contradiction to the protocols of the “International

Labour Organization” and the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”. On the eve of May 1st, one of the fundamental slogans and demands of the progressive forces and working people of the country is to immediately and unconditionally free ... all the labour activists who are detained on the charges of union and trade activities and are deprived of social and job rights.

Conscious and Militant Workers,

Your consistent struggle to attain your rights, including the right to have your own independent class and trade organizations in the recent years, demonstrates a new level of the logical struggle of Iran’s working class to confront the oppressive capitalism and reactionary ruling regime. The rich experience of close to one century of labour struggle in Iran and around the world has proven that the remedy and way out of capitalism plots for workers and toilers is nothing but to unite and organize. A united and organized working class is a great liberating force that could and should play a central role in the liberation of the nation from the webs of the current tyranny. Today, along with the fight for increase of wages, improvement of working conditions and social and job security, struggle to create independent trade organizations is of utmost importance. Organizing the struggle for creating independent labour trade unions is one of the important tasks before the labour movement in our country. Every available opportunity must be utilized in this complex and tough struggle.

In its 65 years of struggle, Tudeh Party of Iran has always considered the struggle to attain the ideals of the working class one of its most important tasks, and today, committed to this honorable history ... it continues this sacred fight alongside the workers and toilers of the nation.

Workers and Toilers of Iran,

On the eve of the international labour celebrations on the 1st of May, in accord with the international trade union movement, let’s demand job related rights and benefits for all manual and non-manual workers, union freedoms and the right to organize in independent trade unions for all, a world free from exploitation, immediate ending of slaughter and prosecution of union activists, immediate freedom of political prisoners, peace and progress, and international solidarity.

Workers and toilers of Iran, let’s put our hands together and build a broad anti-dictatorship against the united lines of reaction, tyranny and despotism, and open the road to social justice, freedom and independence. A century long history of the heroic struggle of the nation’s working class, promises the victory of people against reaction and despotism.

- **LONG LIVE MAY 1ST, THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY!**

- **SALUTATIONS TO THE GLORIOUS MEMORY OF THE MARTYRS OF IRAN’S LABOUR MOVEMENT!**

- **VICTORY FOR THE PEOPLE’S STRUGGLE TO REJECT VELAYAT-E FAQIH REGIME, AND FOR FREEDOM, PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE!**

Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran

25 April 2007



The Cooperation and United Action of National and Freedom-Loving Forces: an Important Step in Fighting Against the Devastating Policies of the Reaction and the Plots of Imperialism

(Abridged from "Nameh Mardom", Central Organ of the Tudeh Party of Iran No. 762, 14th April 2007)

Ali Khamenei, the leader of the Velayat-Faqih (Supreme Leader) regime, named the new Iranian year 1386 (started March 21, 2007) the year of "National Unity and Islamic Coherence". Following that, other heads of the regime, like Imami-Kashani – during this week's Friday mass – stressed the importance of national unity against the "attempts of the enemy" to create factions and divisions within Iran. In evaluating these postures we must first understand what the regime leaders mean by national interests and unity to protect them.

Evaluation of the regime's positions in the last decades gives us a clear understanding of their fundamental points of view on the subject of national interests. The important point in this is the replacement of national interests and the demands and interests of the majority of our people by the interests of "Islam" and the ruling reactionaries.

The strategy of "War, until victory" that was followed and implemented by the heads of the regime subsequent to the liberation of Khorramshahr [a major port in the south of Iran] and the defeat of the Iraqi army - under the guise of "interests of Islam and nation", resulted in nothing but the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iranian youths, hundreds

of thousands of wounded, and billions of dollars in economic losses. During those same years, any opposition to this anti-national and anti-popular policy - that was veiled under the cover of "anti-oppression" and "anti-American" - was met with jail, torture and execution. Also, a brutal medieval dictatorship, i.e. the rule of one individual over all of the judicial and electoral institutes of the country, has been imposed on our nation for many years using the "national interests" and "Islam" as a cover devastating results. During the eight years of Khatami's [the state reformist] presidency, even the smallest effort for the rights of the people was blocked with the excuse that it was "against the interests of Islam and the regime". The elected parliament of the country was not even able to discuss the freedom of press and was overruled by the "rule" of the Supreme Leader. During all these years, all the freedom-loving people who fought for the democratic rights and freedom of our people were accused of "enmity against the country" or as "enemy accomplice" and were tortured in the regimes dungeons. Based on these ideological points of view, a worker fighting for union rights, a student fighting for freedom and against autocracy, a dissenting educational worker, women fighting for liberation from the anti-human webs of medieval laws, and dissident political forces are all "the enemies of Islam and the Islamic nation".

It is clear that such a backward interpretation of national interests and national unity does not match the reality of life and cannot be endorsed by freedom-loving and national forces of the country.

Such announcements and name callings are nothing but political manoeuvres to deceive the public – a public deception that has lost its

effectiveness over the years and a large portion of the social and political forces of the country are aware of its nature. For example, one of such statements ...reads: "We wish that past experiences would give us the hope that these yearly names were effective, and we could clearly see the horizon of progress and improvements in these names... but alas, observations do not paint a satisfying picture. Notwithstanding this fact, it must be said about the "national unity and Islamic coherence" that such notions can be interpreted in many different and at times contradictory ways." The statement then points out the interpretation by the heads of the regime, adding that "from another perspective, "national unity" has nothing to do with the pluralism nor is it a result of consensus of ideas and thoughts; in reality it does not tolerate any diversity or pluralism. From this perspective, such "unity" is not a national choice, but a necessity determined by the regime..... Such an image of "national unity" is shaped in a one-way and dictated manner, forcing the society to abide by it, and therefore, enforcing it demands the use of security and hardware methods." (from ISNA, April 13, 2007)

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The events of the past few months and the escalation of tensions in the region are with no doubt important issues that are closely tied to the future of the country and our national interests of Iran. In the past few months, while warning repeatedly against the serious dangers that threaten our nation due to the US imperialism plots for gaining complete control over the Persian Gulf and the Middle East, our party has also emphasized that through intensifying the struggle against the ruling reaction we must not allow that the political-propaganda manoeuvres of the regime

leaders endanger the interests of our country and our people.

The instigating announcement, right after a UN Security Council resolution against Iran, that Iran has achieved Uranium enrichment in an industrial scale– which is considered by many domestic and international observers and experts to be only a public relations ploy – can only be seen as provoking the international atmosphere against Iran, and giving imperialism another excuse.

In verifying Ahmadi-Nejad's [president] comments, it suffices to point out that Mohamed El-Baradei, the head of the IAEA, believes that "there are many different definitions of producing industrial Uranium, and Iran is only at the beginning stages of building a Uranium enrichment plant." Also, Sergei Kiriyyenko, the head of Russian Atomic Agency (RUSATOM) ... said that "We are concerned with the current situation. According to the statements, Iran has increased the number of its centrifuges". He then added that "but as to the question of calling it industrial scale, I must clearly state that the RUSATOM scientists believe that: NO".

In response to the recent events and in explaining the US policy towards Iran, Nicholas Burns, the US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, said that "...If we continue our skilful diplomatic course and have the patience to see it play out over the mid to long-term, I am confident we can avoid conflict and see our strategy succeed..., so that we can achieve a peaceful end to Tehran's nuclear weapons ambitions...". He then added: "While the US is trying to put an end to Iran's nuclear weapon programme and stop Tehran's support for terrorism in the Middle East, the military option should be considered " Burns added: "I do not believe a military confrontation with Iran is either desirable or inevitable".

Thus, it is clear that the events in the region, the plans of the US imperialism to dominate the region, and unwise policies of the heads of Iranian regime, have all together created a dangerous situation for the national interests of our nation that should be handled with extreme care and vigilance. In such conditions, the united action and cooperation of all the freedom-loving and national forces is an urgent and essential necessity. This united action must be aimed on one hand at fighting against any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of our country and on the other hand at opposing the positions of the ruling reaction so that it is forced to change its approach and move towards adopting policies such as trustworthiness, in order to ease the current tensions and resolve the issues through political means and international mediation. Stirring up the international atmosphere against Iran will only benefit imperialism – and especially the neo-conservative groups associated with the military and oil-industry monopolies in the US, who are seeking the “necessary” excuses to launch a new adventure, despite the widespread anti-war movement across the globe. Immature and agitating policies to steer local and regional public opinion is not a defence of our national interests, and in fact it endangers those same interests. Dedication to national interests is embodied by consciously moving towards establishing justice, freedom and democratic rights in the society and granting the wishes of the majority of the society and social forces, and not by empty populist slogans that are being repeated daily by the regime leaders. The experience of the imprudent policy of continuing the Iran-Iraq war, when the option to end the war existed, showed that how while chanting anti-imperialist and anti-American slogans, one can still contribute to the policies of imperialism

for control of the region, its widespread and permanent military presence, and its strategic positions in the Middle East and Gulf region.

We must stop the recurrence of that tragedy. We must urgently unite and by mobilize the popular forces and defeat the dangerous policies of the reaction. With the support of the strong international solidarity, we must defeat the plots of imperialism to interfere in the internal affairs of our country, and neutralize the plans for a new military adventure.

**WORKERS
OF THE
WORLD
UNITE!**